

Coordinating Statewide Homeland Security Policy & Procedures

Priorities Included Urban Centers, Liberty Airport, Creation of State Police Homeland Security Branch

The highest priority for the Attorney General's Office in a post-September-11 world remains protecting New Jerseyans from terrorism via strong homeland security efforts.

Through the Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force, chaired by the Attorney General, and the Office of Counter-Terrorism within the Attorney General's Office, New Jersey has developed an effective homeland security effort.

Testimony to the strength of New Jersey's homeland protection efforts was provided in October 2004 when the non-profit organization Quality New Jersey named the Attorney General's Northeastern New Jersey Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) a "best practice" among New Jersey state government programs.

The UASI is a program designed to enhance homeland security and domestic

preparedness in the state's most densely populated region. It was funded with \$43.9 million in federal homeland security grant funds over the past two fiscal years, and is focused on addressing potential, and actual, incidents of terrorism in a six-county area made up of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic and Union counties, as well as the cities of Newark and Jersey City. The Northeastern New Jersey UASI program was the only homeland security initiative listed among a dozen state government initiatives highlighted by Quality New Jersey.

The UASI program is focused on developing a first responder force that is capable of responding anywhere in the region to a terrorist incident. Additionally, the initiative has provided resources to "harden" critical facilities that might be attractive terrorism

targets. The six-county UASI area accounts for 44 percent of the state's 8.6 million people, and contains more than one-third of the state's most critical infrastructure sites as identified by the Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force. The UASI puts New Jersey well on its way to creating a truly integrated, and regionalized, program that connects all levels of government in the service of better protecting the public against potential terrorist attacks.

Other highlights included:

- ❖ **Preparation, and implementation, of a plan for Newark Liberty International Airport** to help protect aircraft from the threat of surface-to-air missiles.
- ❖ **Activation of an Office of Counter-Terrorism toll-free tip line, at 1-866-4-SAFE-NJ (1-866-472-3365).**

This highway billboard (near right) along with the bus placard (far right) have been posted throughout New Jersey to promote the statewide hotline number for reporting suspicious activity, as well as New Jersey's comprehensive Homeland Security Web site. The Web site is designed and regularly updated by the communications staff of the Attorney General's Office.



Call: 1-866-4-SAFE-NJ
to report suspicious activity.



Attorney General Peter C. Harvey confers with a member of the New Jersey State Police during the 2004 roll-out of the new State Police Homeland Security Branch (HSB) at Mercer County Airport. The Homeland Security Branch placed the State Police Emergency Management Section and the newly-created Special Operations Section under one command, thereby enhancing New Jersey's ability to respond to a terrorist attack or other domestic security incident. Newly-acquired equipment unveiled during the HSB roll-out included the armored truck pictured here.



❖ **Distribution of a total of \$87.4 million in Fiscal Year 2004 federal homeland security grant monies** to buy equipment for first responders, police, and civilian volunteers in municipalities and counties throughout the State, as well as to fund components of the Northeastern Urban Areas Security Initiative.

❖ **Implementation of a Statewide Information Management System (SIMS)** by the Division of State Police to enable county and local police to more effectively report and catalogue leads on potential terrorist activities. SIMS allows for consistent tracking and documentation of leads, and streamlines reporting to the Office of Counter-Terrorism, as well as the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces. SIMS also serves as a repository and analytical tool for intelligence data.

❖ **www.NJHomelandSecurity.gov** — is the official State Web site for dissemination of bulletins and other public information related to domestic preparedness. Created and constantly updated by staff within the Attorney General's public affairs unit, the Web site provides a wealth of useful information on everything from current threat levels to preparing a disaster-related "emergency kit" to where to report suspicious activity.

Emergency response personnel in action during a full-scale domestic preparedness exercise in 2003. Staged at the Port of Newark and Elizabeth, the drill tested New Jersey's response capabilities with a simulated chemical and radiological explosion.





Call: 1-866-4-SAFE-NJ
to report suspicious activity.

To learn more:
njhomelandsecurity.gov

NEW JERSEY DOMESTIC SECURITY PREPAREDNESS TASK FORCE

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General